

REMARKS

Claims 31 and 51 are amended. Claims 1-51 remain in the application for consideration.

The specification is amended to conform to amendments made in Applicant's last-filed response. Entry of the same is requested.

Independent claims 31 and 51 are amended to recite partial pressure reducing of the oxidizer and the reducer within the chamber by flowing an inert gas to the chamber while chamber pressure is greater than room ambient pressure and while chamber temperature is at or above that of the conditions during the exposing. Such is not shown nor suggested by the references which the Examiner cites.

Specifically, Joo et al. teaches the stopping of its selective oxidation by stopping the flow of the oxidation process gases to the chamber and decreasing temperature. Nothing else of significance is provided by Joo et al. as to what occurs after its selective oxidation process. Joo et al. does not teach the claim 31 and 51 recitation of reducing partial pressure of the oxidizer and the reducer within the chamber by the act of flowing an inert gas to the chamber while chamber temperature is at or above that of the conditions during the exposing.

Storbeck et al. allegedly discloses the flow of nitrogen through the reaction chamber during reduction of temperature of the wafer. However, the teaching of inert gas flow through the reaction chamber during reduction of wafer

temperature says absolutely nothing about, and does not teach anything about, inert gas flow to the chamber when the chamber is at or above the temperature conditions during the exposing.

Likewise, Miner et al. does not teach reducing partial pressure of the oxidizer and reducer within the chamber by the act of flowing an inert gas to the chamber while chamber temperature is at or above that of the conditions during the exposing.

For at least these reasons, Applicant's independent claims 31 and 51 should be allowed. Action to that end is requested.

Applicant's dependent claims should be allowed as depending from allowable base claims, and for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggested in the cited art. Action to that end is requested

This application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6-7-06

By: 

Mark S. Matkin
Reg. No. 32,268